

ABSTRACT

Combined gear change and brake control unit for a bicycle comprising, a support body (12) which can be fastened to the handlebar of the bicycle, a brake control lever (14) pivotally mounted on the support body (12) around a first axis (16), a gear change control unit (18) carried by the support body (12), comprising a shaft (20) turning around a second axis (22), either orthogonal or substantially orthogonal to said first axis (16), in which the shaft (20) carries a pulley (24) on which an end portion of a control cable of a derailleur is destined to be wound, and in which said shaft (20) is subject to a return torque tending to turn the shaft towards a direction (28) in which the cable is released, a gear change lever (30) arranged behind the brake control lever (14) for controlling the rotation of said shaft (20) in a direction of most winding of the cable (26) and a button lever (32) arranged on a side of said support body (12) for controlling the rotation of said shaft (20) in the release direction of the cable (28). The gear change control unit comprises a ratchet mechanism (36, 42) controlled by said button lever (32) and subject to assuming a home position and an active position. The ratchet mechanism (36, 42) is arranged so to leave the shaft (20) free to turn by a predetermined amplitude in the release direction of the cable (28), under the action of said return torque following each variation of position of the ratchet mechanism (36, 42) between the home position and the active position, and vice versa.

~~(Figure 3b)~~